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cess all the pipes now made at the Boston lead-works, and also at the New York works, are manufactured ; and the public may rely on their producing a faultless water-pipe.

"It is also found that, by this improvement, the pipes can be made more rapidly than heretofore, and that a plug or compound cylinder for drawing may be cast thirteen inches long, which is a great advantage.

"A series of experiments were made to ascertain the action of distilled water and of Boston well-water on lead pipes, and on those made as first described, in which the tin had become alloyed with 22 per cent of lead ; and it was found that a lead pipe in 24 hours yielded to distilled water 4.80 grs. of oxide of lead per gallon, and that a pipe lined with tin alloyed with 22 per cent of lead yielded to a gallon of the water 2.24 grs. of oxide of lead, while the pipe lined with pure tin yielded nothing to the water. When Boston well-water, containing 26 grs. of various saline matters per gallon, was substituted for distilled water, lead pipe, in 24 hours, yielded to it 2 grains of oxide of lead, and the pipe lined with tin alloyed with 22 per cent of lead yielded 1.865 grs. of lead to the water, the sulphates in the well-water protecting the lead to a considerable extent. The well-water of Waltham, which was very much less saline than Boston well-water, dissolved 0.8 gr. of oxide of lead from a pipe made of the tin alloyed with lead ; this impregnation having taken place in a single night, or about 12 hours.

"It would seem from these researches, that the lead-encased tin pipe, as originally manufactured, is better than lead pipe, but is still objectionable as a water conduit, and much more so for more powerful solvents for lead, such as soda-water and beer ; while the pipe, as now made, is as unobjectionable as pure block-tin pipe, and is actually cheaper than lead when purchased by the linear foot."

Five hundred and ninetieth Meeting.

January 29, 1868. — STATUTE MEETING.

The **PRESIDENT** in the chair.

Professor August De La Rive was elected a Foreign Honorary Member in Class I. Section 3, in place of the late Michael Faraday.

Professor M. E. Chevreul was also elected a Foreign Honorary Member in Class I. Section 3.

Five hundred and ninety-first Meeting.

February 11, 1868. — **MONTHLY MEETING.**

The **PRESIDENT** in the chair.

The following paper was presented and read by the author:—

A Conjectural Solution of the Origin of the Classificatory System of Relationship.

By **LEWIS H. MORGAN,**

OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

ABOUT twenty years ago I found among the Iroquois Indians of New York a system of relationship, for the designation and classification of kindred, both unique and extraordinary in its character, and wholly unlike any with which we are familiar. At the time I supposed it was a scheme devised by themselves, and confined to this particular stock of the American aborigines. Afterwards, in 1857, I had occasion to re-examine the subject, when the idea of its possible prevalence among other Indian nations suggested itself, together with its uses, in that event, for ethnological purposes. In the following summer I obtained the system of the Ojibwa Indians, of Lake Superior; and, although prepared in some measure for the result, it was with some degree of surprise that I found among them the same elaborate and complicated system which then existed among the Iroquois. Every term of relationship was radically different from the corresponding term in the Iroquois; but the classification of kindred was the same. It was manifest that the two systems were identical in their radical characteristics. It seemed probable, also, that both were derived from a common source, since it was not supposable that two peoples, although speaking dialects of stock-languages, as widely separated as the Algonkin and Iroquois, could simultaneously have invented the same system, or derived it by borrowing one from the other.

From this fact of identity, several inferences at once presented